ment with launch or dhow owners, but it should be remembered that some of them are private property. Umm as-Sabaan is the private property of Mr. Max W. Thornberg, Jidda being a penal settlement, is forbidden ground, and Umm an-Nasaan may only be visited with permission of H.H. The Ruler. The others, the small islands south of Muharraq, Nebih Salih, Jezira and the Howar islands are free to all visitors and a visit to them makes a change from drives around the islands.

Transport in Bahrain includes both bus and taxi, the former are not the luxurious affairs seen in Europe and England but have wooden bodies built in Bahrain and attached to an imported chassis. Taxis, however, are not too expensive if care is taken to pay the correct fare which is recorded in a fare book that should be carried by every driver. It is rumoured that taxis will soon carry meters, which will certainly simplify matters, but till that happy day passengers who have complaints to make about being over-charged should make them to the Traffic Department of the State Police.

Petrol and oil are cheap in Bahrain, which is not surprising, and the import tax on cars and motor cycles is only 10%, so that to own and run a private car is cheaper than in England or the States, as many fortunate people have discovered. Most makes of cars are obtainable in Bahrain, garage facilities have increased and the improvement in the roads has enabled English cars to be used with comfort.

The old-fashioned form of transport in Bahrain was the donkey. It was used for every task, for bringing the produce of the country for sale in the town, for pulling carts and for riding. The white Bahrain donkeys used to be well known all over the Middle East and they were exported from Bahrain to places as far distant as the East African coast. Today buses are replacing donkeys, there are bus services between most of the villages, though many of the young men prefer to use bicycles. Lorries too have successfully competed with donkeys and now carry most of the goods between the towns and villages, but in the gardens and in the narrow country lanes one still meets many donkeys though few of the fine white beasts for which the islands were famous long ago. However, the donkey will never entirely die out, for he has certain advantages over other methods of transport, he can reproduce young donkeys, he can find his own way along small and narrow tracks in the gardens and he produces manure, which is a valuable commodity in Bahrain.

## CHAPTER V

## BAHRAIN'S OIL INDUSTRY

THE man who was chiefly responsible for the discovery of Bahrain's oil resources was an Australian, Major Frank Holmes, who came to Bahrain on behalf of the Eastern and General Syndicate, a British prospecting company. Major Holmes, after drilling a number of artesian wells and thus discovering something about the composition

The number of applications for driving licences increase each year. At present no less than fifty tests are taken each week.

**Non-Traffic Offences.** Sixteen persons were prosecuted in both Courts for non-traffic offences. These included four liquor offences, one of being in possession of hashish, and two cases of criminal Breach of Trust, etc.

Prison sentences and fines amounting to Rs. 2,525/- were imposed. The total fines in both Courts for all types of offences amounted to Rs. 22,421/-.

**Traffic Section Strength.** The Traffic Section Strength is one British Superintendent, three Arab Sub-Inspectors (the one temporarily attached), three N.C.O's and 41 men.

Superintendent Hyde was absent on U.K. leave from 10th June, 1953, till 2nd September, 1953.

Six traffic posts are maintained during daylight at Manama and Muharraq.

**Transport.** One Land Rover, seven motor cycles and two pedal cycles are allotted to the Traffic Department.

**Traffic Department Revenue.** Cash receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 125,928/1/-.

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**REGISTRATION RETURN—1372**

| | 1371 | 1372 |
|---|---|---|
| TOTAL NUMBER OF VEHICLES IN BAHRAIN .. | 2,124 .. | 2,822 |
| New vehicles registered during year .. .. .. | 421 .. | 778 |
| Private motor cars .. .. .. .. .. | 941 .. | 1231 |
| Taxi Cars .. .. .. .. | 143 .. | 212 |
| Private Buses .. .. .. .. | 77 .. | 78 |
| Taxi Buses .. .. .. .. | 82 .. | 100 |
| Private Lorries .. .. .. .. | 293 .. | 390 |
| Taxi Lorries .. .. .. .. | 120 .. | 205 |
| Pick-ups .. .. .. .. | 264 .. | 274 |
| Other Vehicles (Cranes, Tractors, Road Rollers, etc.) .. | 103 .. | 144 |
| Motor Cycles .. .. .. .. | 159 .. | 188 |
| Vehicles notified as "EXPORTED" .. .. | 106 .. | 63 |
| Vehicles notified as "IMPORTED" .. .. | 119 .. | 292 |
| Vehicles scrapped (by Police or by owners) .. .. | 112 .. | 17 |
| Pedal Cycles in Bahrain (Registered) .. .. .. | 4,890 .. | 5,278 |

**DRIVING LICENCES AND TESTS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Driving Licences issued during year .. .. .. .. | 778 |
| Number of Driving Tests during year .. .. .. .. .. | 1,354 |
| Number of Successful Applicants .. .. .. .. .. | 523 |
| Number of Failures .. .. .. .. .. .. | 831 |
| Number of Driving Licences issued on Production of Foreign Licence .. | 215 |